

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting removal of a device
5 connected to a network by a network connection, comprising:
monitoring said network connection; and
generating an alarm in said removed device if said network connection is
disconnected.
- 10 2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step
of preventing a volume of an audio output of said device from being reduced below a
predefined minimum level.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
15 preventing said device from being turned off.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said monitoring step is
automatically activated in a passive manner.
- 20 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said monitoring step is
manually activated by a user.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said generating step can be
prevented by entering a password.
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7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said monitoring step further
comprises the step of sending a message to a remote device and awaiting a response.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said monitoring step further
30 comprises the step of receiving a message from a remote device.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said monitoring step further comprises the step of receiving a signal from a remote device.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said monitoring step further
5 comprises the step of polling one or more local network ports on said device.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said generating step is performed only if said network connection is disconnected by an unauthorized user.

10 12. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting removal of a device connected to a network by a network connection, comprising:

 sending a message to a second device connected to said network that will initiate a response; and

 generating an alarm in said removed device if said response is not received
15 within a predefined time interval.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of preventing a volume of an audio output of said device from being reduced below a predefined minimum level.

20 14. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of preventing said device from being turned off.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said generating step can be
25 prevented by entering a password.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said generating step is performed only if said network connection is disconnected by an unauthorized user.

30 17. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting removal of a device connected to a network by a network connection, comprising:

monitoring a signal received on said network connection from a remote device over said network connection; and

generating an alarm in said removed device if said signal is no longer received.

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18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of preventing a volume of an audio output of said device from being reduced below a predefined minimum level.

10 19. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of preventing said device from being turned off.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said generating step can be prevented by entering a password.

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21. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said generating step is performed only if said network connection is disconnected by an unauthorized user.

20 22. (Currently Amended) A system for detecting removal of a device connected to a network by a network connection, comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code configured to:

monitor said network connection; and

25 generate an alarm in said removed device if said network connection is disconnected.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22, wherein said processor is further configured to prevent a volume of an audio output of said device from being
30 reduced below a predefined minimum level.

24. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said processor is further configured to prevent said device from being turned off.

25. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said processor is further
5 configured to prevent said alarm by entering a password.

26. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said processor is further configured to send a message to a remote device and await a response.

10 27. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said processor is further configured to receive a message from a remote device.

28. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said processor is further configured to receive a signal from a remote device.

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29. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said processor is further configured to poll one or more local network ports on said device.

30. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said processor is further
20 configured to generate said alarm only if said network connection is disconnected by an unauthorized user.

31. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture for detecting removal of a device connected to a network by a network connection, comprising:

25 a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code which when executed implements the steps of ~~means comprising~~:

a step to monitor said network connection; and

a step to generate an alarm in said removed device if said network
30 connection is disconnected.

32. (Currently Amended) A system for detecting removal of a device connected to a network by a network connection, comprising:

means for monitoring said network connection; and

means for generating an alarm in said removed device if said network

5 connection is disconnected.